



UP NEXT: Cincinnati, 3:15 p.m. Sunday (Ch. 11)

Cowboys/NFL coverage inside, 10-16C

OUT OF THEIR GRASP: It was a day of unexplainables for the Cowboys. **11C**
ONE TO FORGET: Redskins frustrate cornerback Terence Newman. **12C**
NOT ENOUGH: Offense looks often to T.O. but not enough to his liking. **14C**

STAFF WRITER
TODD ARCHER
 answers your
 Cowboys questions
 at 10:30 a.m. today
dallasnews.com/sports

Shock & flaw

Redskins stun Cowboys, prove NFC East rival isn't perfect



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Can't exactly count on this defense yet

IRVING — Question: Can we now table the discussion for a few weeks on where the Cowboys' firepower ranks in military history?

Better question: Can the Cowboys count? Never mind that one of the NFL's most celebrated secondaries has gone four games without an interception, and for once we can't even blame it on Roy Williams.

No, the lack of forced turnovers wasn't the worst of it in a 26-24 loss to Washington on Sunday.

Nor was giving up a 50-plus-yard pass play for the third game in a row.

No, this one tops them all: On a pivotal play late in the game, the defense makes the stop, only to find it was over the limit.

"We had 12 men on the field," Ken Hamlin said. "You can't have 12 people on the field."

No, Ken, you can't. "It's not Pop Warner," Bradie James said. "It's the NFL."

Right, Bradie. Wade Phillips probably figured the previous points made by his safety and linebacker were obvious, but now he knows better.

"I can't understand how two players playing the position could be standing out there," Phillips said, clearly flustered.

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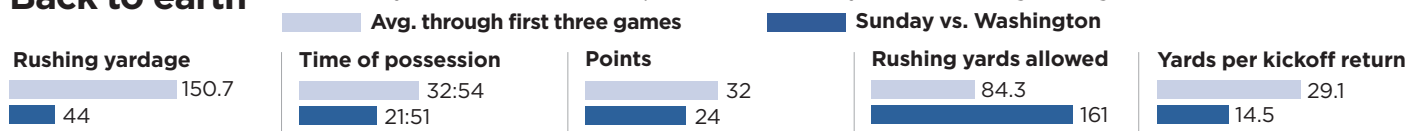


MICHAEL MULVEY/Staff Photographer

Redskins running back Clinton Portis breaks a tackle attempt by Cowboys linebacker Bradie James. Portis carried the ball 21 times for 121 yards, helping Washington dominate the time of possession, 38:09 to 21:51.

Back to earth

The Cowboys fell well short of their previous totals in key statistical categories against the Redskins:



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No excuse for abandoning running game

IRVING — Marion Barber, the NFL's most physical running back, carried the ball eight times. Terrell Owens had more carries than the electric Felix Jones.

Ridiculous. So you shouldn't have been surprised Washington beat the Cowboys, 26-24, Sunday in its last regular-season appearance at Texas Stadium.

The Cowboys couldn't run the ball against Washington because they didn't try. Jason Garrett, who puts the game plan together and calls the plays, is better than that.

Much better. He's proved it over the last two years by consistently finding creative ways to get players the ball in position to succeed and exploiting defenses.

After the game, I heard all of the usual excuses.

You know, the ones about playing from behind meant the Cowboys couldn't run the ball. And running only 58 plays kept the Cowboys from establishing a running game.

And my personal favorite: The Cowboys took what the defense gave them because the Redskins stacked the line of scrimmage, daring Dallas to pass against one-on-one coverage.

"The style of defense they were playing was forcing us to do some other things," Garrett

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Brewers in; Sox still alive

CC Sabathia helped Milwaukee complete its September rebound and end a 26-year playoff drought, while the Chicago White Sox stayed alive in the A.L. Central. **4C**



MORRY GASH/The Associated Press

COLLEGES

Big presence for Big 12

The Big 12 continues to rise in the AP Top 25 football poll. So does the heat on those teams, Chuck Carlton writes. **8C**

ALSO INSIDE

- Mavericks have a pitch for fans, David Moore writes. **2C**
- Rangers enter a decision-heavy off-season. **6C**
- Risky maneuver doesn't help Carl Edwards. **18C**

MLB, 4C

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Cleveland	1
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Chi. Cubs	1

SCORES

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